

Kauai County USDA Service Center

Kauai County FSA

4334 Rice Street,
Suite 103
Lihue, Hawaii, 96766
808-245-9014 Ext. 2
808-246-4639 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

County Committee

Philip D. B. Davies,
Chairperson
Thomas E. Runyan,
Vice-Chairperson
Sheila A. Louis,
Regular Member

Staff

Robert S. Ishikawa,
County Executive Director

Mary H. Pigao,
Farm Program Technician

Terri Souza,
Farm Loan Specialist

**Know Your Farmer,
Know Your Food**
@ www.usda.gov

FSA online: www.fsa.usda.gov

2011 FSA County Committee Elections

The election of agricultural producers to Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committees is important to ALL farmers and ranchers, whether beginning or long-established, large or small. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

County Committee (COC) members are a critical component of FSA operations. The intent is to have the COC reflect the makeup of the producers and to represent all constituents. This means wherever possible, minorities, women or lower income producers need to be on the committee to speak for these underrepresented groups.

County committees provide local input on:

- Commodity price support loans and payments
- Conservation programs
- Incentive, indemnity and disaster payments for some commodities
- Emergency programs
- Payment eligibility



FSA county committee members apply their judgment and knowledge to make local decision and operate within official regulations designed to carry out federal rules, regulations and laws.

Election Period

- June 15, 2011 – COC nomination period begins.
- Aug. 1, 2011 - COC nomination forms (FSA-669A) due at the local USDA Service Center
- Nov. 4, 2011 – COC ballots mailed to eligible voters
- Dec. 5, 2011 - Last day to return completed COC ballots to the USDA Service Center
- Jan. 2, 2012 - Newly elected COC members take office



Who Can Hold Office

To hold office as a county committee member, a person must meet the basic eligibility criteria as follows:

- Participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA
- Be eligible to vote in a county committee election
- Reside in the LAA in which the person is a candidate



Candidates must not have been:

- Removed or disqualified from the office of county committee member, alternate or employee
- Removed for cause from any public office or have been convicted of fraud, larceny, embezzlement or any other felony
- Dishonorably discharged from any branch of the armed services.

For more information about county committee elections, contact the county office staff.

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Nominations

To become a nominee, eligible individuals must complete and sign nomination form FSA-669A. The form includes a statement that the nominee agrees to serve if elected. This form is available at USDA Service Centers and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/elections> (Scroll down to Nomination Forms and click this link to access the form) Nomination forms for the 2011 election, must be postmarked or received in the local USDA Service Center by close of business on Aug. 1, 2011.

Agricultural producers who participate or cooperate in an FSA program may be nominated for candidacy for the county committee. Individuals may nominate themselves or others as a candidate. Additionally, organizations representing minority and women farmers or ranchers may nominate candidates. Nomination forms are filed for the county committee of the office that administers a producer's farm records.

Who Can Vote

Agricultural producers of legal voting age (18 years) may be eligible to vote if they participate or cooperate in any FSA program. A person who is not of legal voting age but supervises and conducts the farming operations of an entire farm may also be eligible to vote. More information about voting eligibility requirements can be found in the FSA fact sheet titled "FSA County Committee Election - Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office as a County Committee Member." Producers may contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

NONINSURED CROP DIASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP) 2012

The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop by providing coverage equivalent to catastrophic (CAT) insurance. Statute limits NAP to each commercial crop or agriculture commodity, except livestock, for which CAT is not available.

Producers who already have coverage on 2011 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crop or crops for 2012, if the applicable service fee is submitted by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops.

IMPORTANT NOTES! Sales Closing Date for Crops for Crop Year 2012

-For Value Loss crops like **floriculture, nursery, aquaculture and Christmas trees** the sale closing date is **September 1, 2011.**

-The sales closing date for crops such as **vegetables, fruits, forage, honey, and other crops** will be **December 1, 2011.**

2012 NAP Service Fee is as follows:

- \$ 250 per crop
- \$ 750 per county for multiple crops
- \$ 1,875 per producer for all counties

Producer who choose to add a new crop (s) or delete a crop (s) from previous year's coverage or changing crop shares must file a new CCC-471 with signature and pay the applicable service fee stated above. Producers with 2011 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

-Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods.

- File a "Notice of Loss" within 15 days of when a loss is apparent, due to drought, excessive moisture, etc.

For more information on NAP coverage, please contact your nearest Farm Service Agency office or on the web at: www.fsa.usda.gov.

NOTICE TO HISPANIC AND / OR WOMEN FARMERS OR RANCHERS

COMPENSATION FOR CLAIMS OF DISCRIMINATION

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

This means you may be eligible if:

1. you sought a farm loan or farm-loan servicing during that period; and
2. the loan was denied, provided late, approved for a lesser amount than requested, or approved with restrictive conditions, or USDA failed to provide an appropriate loan service; and
3. you believe these actions were based on your being Hispanic, or your being female.

If you want to register your name to receive a claims packet, you can call the Farmer and Rancher Call Center at 1-888-508-4429 or access the following website: www.farmerclaims.gov

In 2011, a claims administrator will begin mailing claims packages to those who have requested one through the Call Center or website. The claims package will have detailed information about the eligibility and claims process.

For guidance, you may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider in your community.

If you are currently represented by counsel regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your counsel regarding this claims process.

USDA Cannot Provide Legal Advice to You.

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER

Presorted Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
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Kauai County FSA Office
4334 Rice Street, Suite #103
Lihue, Hawaii, 96766
Return Service Requested